

Please address replies to the  
Genetics Building

June 12, 1957

Dr. K. V. Kossikov  
Institute of Genetics  
Academy of Sciences  
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear Dr. Kossikov:

Thank you ever so much for sending me your book on the genetics of yeast. Of course, I can obtain only glimpses of the information it contains, but some day I may use it as a 'reader' with which to help learn a few words of Russian.

Under separate cover, I have sent you a number of reprints of my papers on bacterial and virus genetics. I am also sending a copy of a book which contains a collection of papers by several authors on these subjects.

During our meeting in London, you spoke of the desirability of visits by American scientists to Moscow. I have heard that a symposium is being organized in Moscow on the subject "Mechanisms of the origin of life", a topic which has interested me greatly in relation to the researches of my wife and myself on the relationships between viruses and their host cells. However, I have never before systematized my thoughts on this subject, except for some allusions in our paper "Infection and Heredity".

I do not know what role, if any, you may be playing in the organization of this meeting. However, if it could happen that my name might be placed on the list for official invitations, there is at least a remote possibility that the necessary travel funds might be raised. Any assistance you might give to this purpose would be much appreciated.

As I do not know the exact timing of this meeting, I do not know whether there would be other obstacles. From August 1 to November 1, my wife and I will be visiting at Professor Rubbo's Department of Microbiology, University of Melbourne, Australia. [I understand that Professor Rubbo is in Moscow at this very moment, attending the Sixth National Soviet Tuberculosis Congress].

Yours sincerely,

  
Joshua Lederberg  
Professor and Chairman, Department of  
Medical Genetics

Member, National Academy of Sciences, U.S.